



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

333 W. Nye Lane, Room 126
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0857
Phone (775) 687-6977 - Fax (775) 687-3783

MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2003 6:00 pm

STOREY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
UPSTAIRS DISTRICT COURTROOM
SECOND FLOOR

26 SOUTH "B" STREET
VIRGINIA CITY, NV

&

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003 4:00 pm

DELTA SALOON, UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
18 SOUTH "C" STREET
VIRGINIA CITY, NV

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner James Settelmeyer called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm on Tuesday, November 4, 2003. Self-introductions of members present as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Rangesan Narayanan, UNR, College of Agriculture
Don Henderson, Nevada Department of Agriculture
Howard Glancy, Dayton Valley Conservation District
James Settelmeyer, Carson Valley Conservation District
Joe Sicking, Paradise Valley Conservation District
Judy Currier, Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Vance Vesco, Big Meadow Conservation District

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sterling Wines, White Pine County Conservation District
Keith Whipple, Lincoln County Conservation District

OTHERS PRESENT

Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary to the Commission
Chris Freeman, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
Kelly McGowan, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Sandi Gotta, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Livia Marques, NRCS
Ana Jimenez, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Rod S. Dahl, NRCS

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 29 & 30, 2003 AND JULY 23, 2003.

- A. Commissioner James Settelmeier asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June 29 & 30, and July 23, 2003 meetings with one correction to be made to Pam's title from Nevada Division of State Lands Administrator to Executive Secretary to the Commission. Commissioner Joe Sicking moved to approve the minutes with the correction. Commissioner Judy Currier seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Commissioner Howard Glancy mentioned the possibility of having the minutes emailed to those who have access to email. Ms. Wilcox and Kelly McGowan agreed that it would not be a problem to email the minutes to those who requested.

IV. INTERNAL DIVISION REPORTS

- A. *Status of the Division of Conservation Districts*
 - 1. General Reports – Pamela B. Wilcox
 - a. Ms. Wilcox gave a brief history on the commission.
 - 2. Fiscal Reports
 - b. Ms. Wilcox gave an update on the budget for fiscal year 2004.
- B. *Status of the Division of Conservation Districts*
 - 1. Conservation District Meeting Logs – Kelly McGowan
 - a. Kelly McGowan gave a report on the Conservation District meeting logs for 2003 and 2004. All the Districts submitted at least three agendas and three minutes for fiscal year 2003.
 - 2. General/Correspondence
 - None

V. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION

A. *Division of Conservation Districts – Kelly McGowan & Sandi Gotta*

1. Sandi Gotta gave a report on liability to Districts. Sandi informed the commission that the Division of Conservation Districts pays workers compensation for board members, but there is no general liability coverage for Districts currently paid through the state. Sandi and Kelly met with Risk Management and the Attorney General's office; they were informed that it would cost approximately \$150 per person to be covered. Representatives from the State's Risk Management and Attorney Generals office will be talking more about liability at the NvACD Annual Meeting.
2. Kelly McGowan attended a meeting in Tonopah with Conservation Commissioner, Keith Whipple, Department of Wildlife's big game biologist, Mike Cox and several Tonopah CD supervisors to discuss the States big game compensation program. They discussed ways in which it might be possible to expand the program to include other species.

B. *Department of Conservation & Natural Resources – Michael Turnipseed*

1. Ms. Wilcox spoke on Mr. Turnipseed's behalf. She gave an update on the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.

C. *Department of Agriculture – Don Henderson*

1. Commissioner Don Henderson gave an update on the Department of Agriculture.

D. *University of Nevada, Reno – Dr. Rangesan Narayanan*

1. Dr. Narayanan gave an update on UNR's budget.
2. The Plant Materials Center is still in the proposal stage.
3. The Great Basin Summit was very successful, it was organized last September in Elko. There were almost 100 participants and it was jointly organized by University of Nevada, Reno and Utah State University.
4. The Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit is successfully operating. They have almost 1 million dollars in funding for UNR alone.
5. University of Nevada, Reno arranged a rural tour for the central administration of UNR, they visited Mason Valley, Smith Valley, Tonopah, Duck Water, Ely and Eureka. It was the first time a Vice-President from U.N.R. toured the state.
6. The College of Agriculture has had a 50% enrollment increase in the last four years.

E. *Natural Resources Conservation Service & Resource Conservation & Development – Livia Marques*

1. Ms. Marques introduced herself as the new State Conservationist for NRCS. Her goals as the state conservationist are to implement NRCS' program delivery to the farmers and ranchers and to enhance NRCS' local partnership with Conservation Districts.
2. There was a significant increase in financial assistance in Farm Bill programs and they are looking forward to implementing programs to more customers.
3. Rodney Dahl spoke to the commission about Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D). The RC& D is a locally led organization led by county commissioners, city representatives, tribal representatives and

conservation district representatives. He requested a letter of support from the Commission to develop a new RC&D for the uncovered areas in Nevada. This would provide full coverage in the state.

F. *Farm Service Agency – Roger Van Valkenburg*

Not present.

G. *Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – Chris K. Freeman*

1. The National Association of Conservation Districts is undergoing reorganization. The Western Coalition voted to remain as members of NACD through the current Pacific and Southwest Regions of NACD. The NACD Pacific and Southwest Regions agreed to remain autonomous when it comes to sharing a possible Regional Director.
2. Mr. Freeman encouraged the Commissioners to get to know the chairpersons of the districts within their region.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Items A, B and C were tabled until the next commission meeting on Thursday, November 6, 2003.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Annual election of Officers to serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.*

1. Chairman Settlemeyer stated he had no problem with continuing to serve as Chairman. He called for nominations from the floor. Commissioner Judy Carrier said Commissioner Keith Whipple would be willing to serve as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Settlemeyer asked if there were any other nominations. Commissioner Joe Sicking made a motion to close nominations. Commissioner Vance Vesco seconded Commissioner Joe Sicking's motion to close nominations. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. Chairman Settlemeyer said if there was no debate, to close nominations and allocate the individuals to the positions. Chairman Settlemeyer asked for a vote to that effect, and it passed unanimously.

B. *Review of Division of Conservation District and State Conservation Commission Strategic Plan and discuss process for updating.*

1. Sandi passed around a Business Management Plan that the Colorado State Conservation Board completed and asked if the Commission would like to produce a similar document. The Commission agreed that such a document could be useful in furthering their goals, but would like to have a facilitator assist them at the next meeting in February. Livia offered NRCS' assistance to have a trained facilitator at the next meeting to review the strategic plan and develop a business plan. Items B and C were tabled until the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Joe Sicking made a motion to table the items. Commissioner Howard Glancy seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

C. *Review the Division of Conservation District biennium goals and objectives fiscal years 2004 & 2005.*

Tabled until February meeting.

VIII. STAFF ITEMS – Division Staff Comments

- A. None

IX. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

- A. Don Henderson gave the commission a brief history of his background.
B. Commissioner Howard Glancy gave a brief history of his background.
C. Commissioner Joe Sicking gave a brief history of his background.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None

XI. ADJOURNMENT UNTIL THURSDAY – *Reconvened on Thursday, November 6, 2003, 4:00 pm.*

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2003, by Commissioner James Settlemeyer. Self-introductions of those present as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

James Settlemeyer, Carson Valley Conservation District
Joe Sicking, Paradise Valley Conservation District
Dr. Rangesan Narayanan, UNR, College of Agriculture
Howard Glancy, Dayton Valley Conservation District
Vance Vesco, Big Meadow Conservation District
Keith Whipple, Lincoln County Conservation District
Judy Currier, Conservation District of Southern Nevada
John O'Brien, Nevada Department of Agriculture, for Don Henderson

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Sterling Wines

OTHERS PRESENT

Sandi Gotta, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
David Thawley, UNR Dean of Agriculture and Director
Chris Freeman, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
Kelly McGowan, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary to the Commission
Ana J. Jimenez, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Derrick Van Gorp, Conservation District of Southern Nevada
Greg Currier, Las Vegas
Roger J. Hatch, Lincoln County Conservation District
Lee Campsey, NRCS
Agee Smith, North East Elko Conservation District
Carl F. Clinger, Big Meadow Conservation Districts

II. OLD ITEMS CONTINUED –

Continuation of items from November 4, 2003 meeting requiring Discussion or action as noted on agenda.

A. Designation of Ruby Valley Conservation District as being in “Good Standing” and eligible for commission grant in fiscal year 2004. (NAC 548.120(2))

ACTION

Kelly McGowan recommended that Ruby Valley Conservation District be found in good standing. Commissioner Judy Currier made a motion to find Ruby Valley Conservation District in good standing. Commissioner Joe Sicking seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

B. The Commission may award distribution of grant funds to Ruby Valley Conservation District as per (NAC 548.120) *ACTION* After a lengthy discussion, the Commission decided to authorize a partial payment of \$2,621 to Ruby Valley Conservation District. Commissioner James Settlemeyer asked for a motion to award Ruby Valley Conservation District a partial payment in the amount of \$2,621, going up to \$5,000 if it is properly justified to the satisfaction of the Commission. Joe Sicking made a motion to approve the partial payment to Ruby Valley. John O’Brien seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Considerations of resolutions approved and submitted by the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts. *ACTION*

1. Resolution # 1

Request to update the Best Management Practices handbook. Commissioner Whipple made a motion to approve the request to update the Best Management Practices handbook. Commissioner Vance Vesco seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

2. Resolution # 2

Conservation District of Southern Nevada requested an annual appropriation of a minimum of \$5,000 with an availability of up to \$25,000 per district. Keith Whipple made a motion to table the resolution until the Division of Conservation Districts provides more information on what the additional funds would be expended on. Howard Glancy seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

3. Resolution # 3

Lincoln Conservation District – NDOW compensation for wildlife damage. Keith Whipple made a motion to accept the resolution. Joe Sicking seconded. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

4. Resolution # 4

Dayton Valley Conservation District – a request to authorize a grant entitled Conservation Program Grant Fund. Conservation districts would apply through

the Division of Conservation Districts for a competitive grant. The Division of Conservation Districts would administer the grants and the grant funds. The sum of money to be appropriated for the Conservation Program Fund would be \$500,000. Commissioner Keith Whipple made a motion to refer resolution # 4 to Division of Conservation District staff. Commissioner Howard Glancy seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

B. Consideration of other items requested by NvACD or state related items.
None

IV. COMMISSIONER ITEMS – commissioner comments and reports
None

V. STAFF ITEMS – Division staff comments

- A. Division staff complemented the Commission on their professionalism in handling recent difficult situations.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
None

VII. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

- A. Next Commission meeting will be held in Carson City on Thursday February 26, 2004.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Commissioner Joe Sicking motioned to adjourn the meeting. Keith Whipple seconded the motion. The motion was carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ana J. Jimenez
Administrative Assistant II